

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: August 27, 2007

From :  Joseph J. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Executive Director

Subject: **Agenda Item 13: Consideration of resolution authorizing the addition of Coastal Slope Trail properties in Ramirez, Escondido and Latigo Canyons to the Conservancy Acquisition Workprogram, Malibu.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing the addition of Coastal Slope Trail properties in Ramirez, Escondido and Latigo Canyons to the Conservancy Acquisition Workprogram within a new project called Latigo-Ramirez Canyons Coastal Slope Trail Connector.

Legislative Authority: Section 33203 and 33211 (c) of the Public Resources Code.

Background: The current Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Acquisition Workprogram was adopted in 2000. Subsequent to that adoption, the Rim of the Valley Trail Corridor was expanded a third time to include all lands south of the Antelope Valley Freeway in the Santa Clara River watershed. In addition, the passage of Proposition 50 modified the boundary of the Santa Monica Mountains Zone to include all portions of the Los Angeles River watershed from the northernmost point of the City of Vernon. During the last seven years, projects have been periodically added.

Generally, projects are added to the Workprogram to take advantage of opportunity purchases (such as tax defaulted properties and bargain sales), to accommodate area specific funding sources, and to compensate for prior omissions. Furthermore, in Los Angeles County, in order for either the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA), or the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, to use Proposition A Excess Funds on a project, the project must be on the Workprogram submitted by the Conservancy to the Governor as part of its annual report.

The proposed action would add the Latigo-Ramirez Canyons Coastal Slope Trail Connector project to the Acquisition Workprogram. The existing Workprogram projects only cover portions of the Coastal Slope Trail between Ramirez and Latigo Canyons. For complete coverage of this section of the Coastal Slope Trail, the following APNs are proposed to comprise a new project entitled Latigo-Ramirez Canyons Connector. APNs 4460-014-006, 4460-014-008, 4460-015-011, 4465-003-900, 4465-004-070, 4465-004-071, 4467-002-041, 4467-

003-021, 4467-003-031, and 4467-003-044. The attached map shows these ten parcels.

The Coastal Slope Trail is part of both the Los Angeles County and City of Malibu General Plans. The proposed trail extends from Topanga State Park (Will Rogers), to just beyond the Ventura County line. Most of the proposed trail alignment remains under private ownership. As a result, the route through many key sections is fluid pending both public funding availability and the success of public agencies in securing trail easement exaction in the permitting process. A major purpose of this trail is to provide a means to connect the series of existing coastal canyon parks.